

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

EO 01-01

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ADDRESSING THE STATE'S CURRENT POLICY ON PURCHASING PRODUCE.

WHEREAS, according to the 1997 USDA Census of Agriculture, 24.1 percent of Arkansas' farms were less than 50 acres; and

WHEREAS, according to the same census, 86.4 percent of Arkansas' farms were family owned; and

WHEREAS, according to the same census information, only .5 percent of the Value of Products sold were fresh vegetables and produce; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas has a compelling interest in the promotion of the production and fresh vegetables grown on small family farms; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 Census of Agriculture data indicates that most fresh produce is grown and produced on small, family owned farms; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state to purchase a portion of all vegetables from local small family owned farms;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order:

1. State Agencies are hereby directed to purchase, when possible, at least 25% of all fresh, unprocessed vegetables from local, small farms.
2. To this end, Agencies are instructed to use produce brokers that purchase produce from local growers, documenting this use as the agency sees fit.
3. Agencies are to report the number of purchases made from local farmers by October 1 of every year to the Department of Finance and Administration.
4. The Department of Finance and Administration is to compile this data as it sees fit and report it to the Governor or his agent by the beginning of the next fiscal year.
5. Nothing in this Executive Order is to be construed as a preference or mandate and shall not alter state purchasing guidelines or existing contracts.

Definitions:

A small farm is defined as a farm under 100 acres. Locally grown vegetables is defined as farms in Arkansas or surrounding states no further than one working days drive, under appropriate speed limits, from the purchasing agency. Unprocessed vegetables are defined as vegetables that have received no treatment, automated or otherwise, after they have been harvested, excluding washing or the minor application of a preserving agent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State Of Arkansas to be affixed at the Capitol in Little Rock on this 24th day of January in the year of our Lord, two thousand one.



GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST